

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W

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R 101710Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3072

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FOR ASST SECRETARY CU RICHARDSON FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: NA

TAGS/ OEXC GR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL IVP PROJECT FOR GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: A. ATHENS 8646; B. STATE 268195

1. IF IT IS TO BE REALIZED AT ALL, WE MUST SHORTLY MOVE AHEAD WITH THE SPECIAL IVP PROJECT FOR A GROUP OF GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON. YOU NO DOUBT RECALL OUR DISCUSSION OF THIS PROJECT LAST OCTOBER AS WELL AS THE TALKS BETWEEN BILL HITCHCOCK AND MONTY STEARNS ABOUT IT MORE RECENTLY. AFTER MY TALK WITH YOU, I BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF A VISIT BY A GREEK PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN GENERAL TERMS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT, PAPACONSTANTINO, AND HE, LIKE THE DEPARTMENT, WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT (REFS).

2. WE THINK THAT THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT. WE ARE REBUILDING OUR RELATIONSHIPS HERE, AND MAKING SOME HEADWAY IN CONVINCING DECISION MAKERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE US WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS GREECE'S RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RANKS. THIS SPECIAL IVP PROJECT WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO BOTH THESE GOALS WHICH WE MUST ACHIEVE IF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE IS TO REST ON A SOLID FOUNDATION.

3. WE CANNOT FUND THIS PROJECT OUT OF OUR REMAINING CURRENT REGULAR IV PROGRAM. THE SAD FACT IS THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IV PROGRAM IN GREECE HAS ONLY marginally recovered

FROM THE SHRUNKEN STATE INTO WHICH IT WAS REDUCED UNDER THE JUNTA AND THAT RECOVERY WAS AT THE EXPENSE OF FULBRIGHT PROGRAM FUNDS. IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT IN THE PRE-JUNTA YEARS WE HAD NEARLY TWENTY GRANTEES A YEAR. WE CAN NOW FUND ONLY FIVE.

4. THUS, THIS SPECIAL PROJECT WILL NEED SPECIAL FUNDING--WE ESTIMATE ABOUT \$18,000 FOR SIX PARTICIPANTS FOR 30 DAYS. PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE NOW MAKING PLANS FOR THE JULY-SEPTEMBER PERIOD IN WHICH PARLIAMENT IS IN RECESS, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE THE IDEAL TIME FOR THEIR TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD FIT IN AS WELL WITH BICENTENNIAL AND ELECTION ACTIVITIES. THUS, WE NEED TO KNOW SOON IF WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THIS PROJECT.
KUBISCH

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